clearances, surveys for railway line, roads, power supply etc.

(ii) Comprehensive guidelies for project formulation and monitoring have been issue by the Ministry of Coal and the system of monitoring of projects at various levels has been standardised.

(iii) Rugular review meetings with public sector equipment manufacturers/suppliers are held.

(iv) Sophisticated geological and geophysical exploration techniques and interpretation mechanism are being progressively introduced for accurate forecasting of geo-mining conditions.

(v) For providing adequate funds for the on-going projects, coal companies have taken steps to mobilise resources through internal generation as well as external borrowings.

Share of underground and open cast mines in production of coal

5820. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) what is the share of underground and open cast mines in the production of coal at the end of each Five Year Plan and at the beginning of the Eighth Five Yea Plan;

(b) what are the reasons for low contribution of underground mines in total coal production; and

(c) steps taken to increase the production of coal from underground mines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Coal production in Coal India Limited (CIL) and Singareni Collieries Company Limted (SCCL) taken together, at the end of each Five Year Plan after nationalisation of coal industry and at the beginning of the Eighth Five Year Plan were as under:

	(in million tonnes) Coal Production		
	Under-ground	Open-cast	Total
End of 4th Five Year Plan (74-75)	64.40	20.77	85.17
End of 5th Five Year Plan (79-80)	68.32	32.52	101.04
End of 6th Five Year Plan (84-85)	71.05	72.10	143.15
End of 7th Five Year Plan (89-90)	70.73	125.69	196.42
Intermediate periods			
(90-91)	66.96	140.38	207.34
(91-92)	68.98	155.74	224.72
Beginning of 8th Five Year Plan (92-93)	70.37	163.36	233.73

(b) Most of the underground mines are old, extensive and worked manually. Many underground mines are having geomining problems like steep and multiple seams, occurance of fires and water logged old workings in the adjoining areas etc. leading to low contributions from these mines.

(c) Steps taken to augment underground coal production *inter alia* include opening of new mines, *modernisation* of existing mines, application of new technologies to achieve maximum results and ensuring timely availability of inputs and infrastructural facilities.

Low productivity in under-ground Mines

5821. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 828 given in the Rajya Sabha on 20th March, 1995 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that one of the major constraints on the profitability of the coal sector is low productivity in under-ground mines;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how these compare with the productivity of major coal producing countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During 1994-95 output-per-manshift (OMS) of the underground mines of the Coal India (CIL) was 0.56 tonne and in Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) OMS was 0.69 tonne.

(c) Available productivity figures in terms of output-per-manshift (OMS) for underground mines of some of the major coal producing countries of the world are as under:

(Figures in Tonnes)

Countries	Under-ground	Year
Australia	15.60	1992
France	3.9	1990-91
Germany	5.20	1992
India (CIL)	0.56	1994-95
(SCCL)	0.69	1994-95
Poland	1.90	1990-91
United States	18.00	1992
UK	8.76	1993

Direction to cancel pending allocations of sponsored coal by Coal India Limited

5822. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Coal India Ltd. has instructed its subsidiaries to cancel all pending allocations of sponsored coal made to the non-sector industries as on December, 1994;

(b) whether it is also a fact that due to cancellation of indents by the Coal India Ltd. and its subsidiaries small units will be the most affected;

(c) whether Government has received any representation from the India Coal Merchants Association on the above cancellation stating that the cancellation was unlawful and unjust; and

(d) if so, what action has been taken by Government to redress the grievances of these small units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (d) According to information furnished by Coal India Limited (CIL) consents of coal companies for supplies of coal had validity only till the end of the month/ quarter, except that three subsidiaries of Coal India Limited (CIL) has a different practice. It was decided in January, 1995 to adopt a uniform system in all subsdiaries of CIL as a result of which one months grace period is to be allowed at the end of the a quarter after which the remaining consents lapse. This measure was taken to deal with the problem of heavy backlogs and to avoid blocking of customers money for an unreasonable long periods.

Some suggestions in this regard have been received from Indian Coal Merchants Association. Government's perception is that the decision is not